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### Siamese Musical Instruments.

The Siamese have an instrument which they call the ranat, a species of harmonicon, with 17 different wooden keys, united by cords and resting upon a stand, each strip of wood giving a different note. The instrument is played with two wooden hammers.

### Foul Play.

Lady (who has given a tramp a plate of scraps): "You must feel the humiliation of begging for food." Tramp: "It's not that so much mumm. What hurts me is that I'm depriving the pore innercent fowls of a feed."

### Sharing the Joy of Life.

The only real happiness in this life springs from doing things for others, and nothing gives us greater pleasure than bringing our loved ones a box of candy, of which we are very fond.—Columbus Ohio State Journal.

### Plurality Didn't Elect.

In all of the three times that he ran for president Grover Cleveland polled a plurality of the popular vote. In his second race, when he was defeated, his plurality over Harrison was 98,017.

### Uncle Eben.

"A lazy man," said Uncle Eben, "wouldn't be so bad if he didn't allus want a lot of other folks to knock off for de sake of sociability."

### Force of Habit.

"Ruth! I'm really surprised at you, putting out your tongue at people." "It was all right, mother; it was only the doctor going past."

### The Times That Are No More.

Old memories fade—but many a man can remember the time he helped move an old-fashioned square piano up or down stairs.

### A Fighting Kansan.

An Atchison man has figured in so many church rows his wife has put a service flag in the window.—Ithaca Globe.

### Secret of Peace.

It doesn't matter how much a man and his wife disagree as long as he doesn't let her know it.—Boston Transcript.

### Daily Thought.

There is no virtue so truly great and Godlike as justice.—Addison.

### The Once Over.

Life is a book. Read it carefully, for you can only read it once.—Boston Transcript.

### Reputation.

A man's reputation is like his shadow, which is sometimes larger and sometimes shorter than the man.—Punchtawney Spirit.

### Change While You Look.

By moving a single lever a new automobile body is converted into an open car or a two-seated vehicle.

### Optimistic Thought.

The highest virtue of all is victory over ourselves.

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## To Consumers of Gas:

### About Gas Bill Errors

Complaints of errors in gas bills have been unusually frequent during the past month.

Mistakes will happen in any business that has to send out between 650,000 and 700,000 bills per month, as we do. The total complaints of customers filed with us are but a small percentage of bills rendered. Practically all of the gas bill mistakes happening lately are due to the following conditions:

Since the war began, the army and navy have taken nearly 600 of our employees. War industries have drawn away a still larger number. Vacancies have been filled in harmony with the U. S. Government recommendations—women in place of men where possible.

The personnel in many departments has been entirely changed in the sixteen months—in some of them several times. Green help has had to be broken in. We have now nearly 300 more employees than we had before the war, with practically no more business to care for; but many departments are still short-handed because inexperienced help does less work, no matter how willing. Every business that has a large clerical force has had similar experience.

The recent influenza epidemic aggravated the situation. Our meter-reading and book-keeping departments, which get out the bills, have been hit the hardest. A consequence of all this has been the errors in bills of the past month.

These errors are being promptly and carefully corrected as soon as detected, and everything that can be done to prevent errors is being done. In the meantime:

**Under the rules of the Illinois Public Utilities Commission, our customers do not lose their discount privileges during the investigation of complaints filed with us.**

We do not gain by inconveniencing our customers. We are working under abnormal conditions. We ask only that our customers extend to us a little of the patience which the times demand. As war conditions pass, our service will be restored to the highest possible degree of efficiency.

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### Quick Work.

Overheard at a county fair: (Intoxicated Man gazing in open-mouthed astonishment at an incubator just placed in floral hall and in which the chicks are beginning to hatch)—"These here incubators just beat anything I ever saw. I give you my word them eggs haven't been in here an hour and they are hatching already."

### To Have Men Yours.

Go forth into the busy world and love it. Interest yourself in its life; mingle kindly with its joys and sorrows; try what you can do for men rather than what you can make them do for you, and you will know what it is to have men yours, better than if you were their king or master.—Brooke Herford.

### Speed of Carrier Pigeons.

On fairly long journeys, say to 100 miles or more, the carrier pigeon will average a speed of from 37 to 43 miles an hour. The best horse in the world can only keep up a speed approximate to that for six or seven minutes at most. The pigeon's speed is about 33 yards a second.

### Deserves Preferment.

An Ohio man has invented a door-knob that when grasped in the hand illuminates an electric bulb placed just above the keyhole. A genius such as he deserves to be rewarded with a seat in the United States senate.—Rochester Post Express.

### Materials in Airplane.

Exclusive of the engine, the average airplane contains 4,326 nails, 3,377 screws, 920 steel clampings, 798 forgings, 276 turnbuckles, 65 pounds of aluminum and relative quantities of varnish, rubber, linen, wood, etc.

### Should Be Surrounded by Water.

First Class Scout—"Why, Johnny Smith, your neck is simply covered with mud!" Tenderfoot—"Say, Jim, do you suppose that's what our teacher meant by a neck of land?"—Boys' Life.

### Quit Your Spattering.

To prevent an automobile spattering mud upon pedestrians there has been invented a flexible metal ring to be attached close to a tire.

### Goat Furnishes Milk and Churn.

About 70 miles northwest of Mount Sinai—where, as you remember, Moses received the Commandments—is a butter factory, the machinery of which has not been improved since his day. It consists of a bag of goat skin suspended from a tripod of poles. The Bedouin women partly fill the bag with goats' milk and then have plenty of time to discuss the neighbors as they patiently rock the bag until the butter is separated from the whey.—Popular Science Monthly.

### A Nap on a 40-Mile Wind.

It was not so long ago that a tem-mille breeze would upset all flying plans for a day at any airdrome or exhibition field. Now nothing short of a hurricane can keep the machines on the ground. As far as the ability to make good weather of it is concerned the airman of today can laugh at a gale and fairly take a nap sitting on a 40-mile wind.—William A. Bishop, V. C. S. O. M. C., in Saturday Evening Post.

### From the Ancient Greeks.

"To throw dust in one's eyes" is a saying derived from the ancient Greeks. Epaminondas, wishing to surprise the Lacedaemonians, is said to have caused 1,000 cavalrymen to advance in front, kicking up a great dust which the wind blew into the faces of the enemy, thus blinding them to a flank movement he was executing with a view to taking the coveted heights in the rear.

### Marmoset's Rival.

Mrs. Ellen Walker of Philadelphia keeps as her mascot a land turtle which she has had for twenty-five years, since it first wandered into the yard of her home. The turtle is carried with her on all her travels in a basket made for the purpose. During the summer it spends its time in the garden at the Walker home. In the winter it is kept in the basement.

### His Former Occupation.

The customer in the barber shop suffered in silence a long while, but there are limits to patience even in such places. He asked: "What made you take to haircutting?" The barber blandly replied: "Good money sir. Pays a sight better than hedge trimming, which was my last job."—London Answer.



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